



SOVEREIGN SAINTS FOOTBALL CLUB [SSFC]

JUNIOR FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT RULES 2025

The tournament shall be known as Sovereign Saints 5/6-a-Side Tournament.

The tournament will be played in accordance with FA rules as appropriate.

A committee elected from the club will be responsible for all decisions regarding the rules.

Ball

O6-U9 will use size 3, U10-U14 will use size 4 & U15 will use size 5 and the 'home' team [named first] will provide the match ball.

Number of Players / Substitutes

A maximum of 9 players per team are allowed for registration. O6s, U7s & U8s will be 5-a-side and U9-U15 will be 6-a-side. Rolling substitutions are allowed for all age groups.

Playing Equipment

All players must wear shin pads. Goalkeepers' shirts must not match outfield players. Footwear should be applicable for the conditions. If there is a clash in colours the second named team must change shirts or wear bibs. Jewellery must be removed or taped.

Referee

The referee has full authority to enforce the rules of the game in connection to the game that he or she is officiating. The decisions of the referee are final and must be respected.

Match Duration

All matches will be 10 minutes one way. If weather dictates will a choice of ends be decided by a toss of a coin arranged between the referee and the Team Managers. The team winning the toss will choose end and the other Team will have kick off.

If a semi-final or final finishes level at full time, then the game will be decided by penalty shootout as per the rules of the game (best of 3, then sudden death).

Note that these timings are based on 6 teams per group. If there is a change in the number of teams in a group, the duration of matches will be adjusted accordingly, to give comparable overall playing time in each group.

Group Numbers & Running Order

We aim to have 6 teams in every group and timings will be strictly maintained so please ensure all teams are at the correct pitch in time for their allocated kick-off time. In the event of a change in the number of teams in a group, SSFC will provide a revised running order for that group.

Kick-Off/Restarts

Players must retreat 3m away at kick-off/all restarts & a goal cannot be scored from kick-off.

Offside

There is no offside.

Free Kicks

All free kicks are direct except where one is given for the goalkeeper picking the ball up from a back pass. This will be an indirect kick taken from the penalty box line nearest to the offence. O6s, U7s and U8s will not be penalised for picking up from a back pass.

Goal Kicks & Goalkeepers

Goal-kicks will be taken from the back line except for the O6s, U7s and U8s, who will take their kicks from the edge of the penalty area.

O6s, U7s and U8s are allowed to kick the ball out at all times but U9s and up must roll/throw the ball out. (Note: picking up from a back pass will be penalised as above - see free kicks).

In O6, U7 and U8 matches, opposing players must retreat to their own half when Goal Kicks are taken, however the defending team does not have to wait until this happens.

Discipline

Games will be officiated in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Red cards will require the player to leave the field of play and excluded from the following match. If the player subsequently receives another red card in a later game, they will be excluded from the rest of the Tournament.

SSFC reserve the right of entry for players, spectators or visitors to our tournament and any behaviour that falls below acceptable standards may result in exclusion from the site.

Semi-Finalists

Will be decided by points gained (3 for win, 1 for draw, 0 for loss), then goal difference, then goals scored and then head-to-head result. If these are all equal, then a penalty shootout [3 penalties then sudden death] between the two teams will take place as per the rules of the game.

Trophies

Over 6s, U7s and U8s will receive a memento of the day.

All age groups will be competitive with individual winners and runners-up receiving medals and a team trophy awarded to winners. In age groups with more than one group there will also be a 'Plate Competition', details of which are on the relevant page of the programme.

Winning teams will keep the trophy and not have to return it.

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All scores and league tables will be recorded electronically and available to be viewed on the screen at the score tent. This will enable us to determine semi-finalists promptly on completion of all group games. If scores are recorded incorrectly, it is the affected teams' responsibility to bring this to our attention as inaccuracies cannot be reversed once semi-finalists are declared.

All tournament decisions taken by the management committee will remain final.

SSFC inform you that the FA advise it is the responsibility of individual clubs and players to make sure they have adequate insurance in case of injury to/by themselves to other players.

All Teams to provide their own first aid equipment and qualified First Aider must be in attendance.

Consumption of alcohol, smoking & vaping is not permitted on the tournament site.

No dogs [except guide dogs] are permitted on the tournament site.

SSFC will not accept any responsibility for any loss/damage caused during the tournament.